(iii) The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of DGHS on July 18, 2001 associating members from Industry, Trade, Drugs Regulatory Officials and Public representatives to go into all aspects of the menace of Spurious drugs and suggest remedial measures.

(b) As per the information given by the State Drug Control Authorities, 17 cases related to spurious drugs have been reported from Delhi, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh in last one year. 68 persons have been arrested in this regard during the period 2000-2001.

(c) and (d) As per the information given by the State Drug Control Authorities of Delhi, 76 allopathic medicines worth Rs. 1 Crore (approx) and two Ayurvedic medicines worth Rs. 1.5 crore (Approx) of various manufacturers were seized during a raid conducted in July 2001 in and around Bhagirath Place in Delhi and At Murthal, District Sonepat, Haryana. So far Police have arrested six persons in this connection and investigations are in progress.

Steps to check female foeticide

†2933. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that network of doctors is working in every city and village to commit the heinous crime of female foeticide;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to check the evil practice; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No data is available on a specific network of doctors committing female foeticide. However, increase in female foeticide seems to have contributed to adverse sex ratio in the age group of 0.6 year in almost all states, as revealed in Census 2001.

(b) In order to prevent the cases of sex determination of foetus leading to female foeticide, the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994, was enacted which came into operation with effect from 1st January, 1996. This act prohibits any person from conducting

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

any pre-natal diagnostic techniques for the purpose of determining the sex of the foetus. The act also prohibits any advertisements relating to pre-natal determination of sex and prescribed punishment for contravention of these clauses.

The implementation of the Act rests largely with the States/Union Territories.

The States/UTs have been advised to mount an effective awareness compaign to make the public and service providers aware of the provisions of the Act. The States/UTs have also been advised to provide protection to social activists and Non-Governmental Organizations giving information of filing complaints of violation of the provisions of the Act.

After the Census 2001 figures became available, letters were addressed to the Chief Ministers of all States/UTs to give focussed attention to the issue of adverse sex ratio. Chief Secretaries of all the States/ UTs have also been addressed for following up on implementation of various provisons of the Act.

Workshops/Seminars are being organised at State/district level, to create awareness about the provisions of the Act. Voluntary Organisations are also being involved to carry out projects regarding creating awareness about the provisions of the Act. Grant-in-aid has also been released to NGOs to conduct seminars and workshops and other Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities in the States of Orissa, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.

National Level Non-Governmental Organisations have been requested to take up projects for generating awareness about the provisions of the Act, among doctors/clinics/law enforcing authorities and public at large. In December, 2000 the Department of Family Welfare had written letters to 82 Mother NGOs to direct the field NGOs to generate within their jurisdiction, awareness and public opinion against the malpractice of sex selective abortion. The cooperation of the NGOs has also been requested in listing and enumerating, within their jurisdicaiton, the name and address of premises where the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) is being performed, with a view to detect registered/unregistered clinics. Supreme Court has issued directions on 4th May, 2001, to both the Central and State Governments for effective implementation of the Act.

(c) Does not arise.